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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER

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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

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WITH the issue of this edition we send one of our staff to England for the purpose of investigating the pottery industries of that country. For years the people of the United States have been the recipients of wares from the factories of Great Britain, and the proportionate increase in importation has been beyond that of many others of the foreign products, though rather in an inverse ratio—the consumption of white pottery or the coarser grades has become less, while the finer and more expensive pieces have been doubled or quadrupled in quantity. The establishment of large pottery concerns in our midst has served to increase the demand without interfering, excepting as we have said in the commoner quality of goods, with the quantity imported. The difference however in character of the ware compensates from the standpoint of a money value for any shrinkage in mere bulk, and the importance of the importation to-day as compared with its importance ten years ago, is vastly greater.

THE nature of our circulation is such that our readers are those who constitute the purchasing element of this rich ware, and they are competent and ready judges of the value and merits of the works of the foreign manufacturers. Naturally they are interested in the improvements and progress made in those branches of trade, in the study of which they find so much to take their time and in the investment so worthy exchange for their money. We wish to encourage these English potters to make this country a still larger market for their products; it will benefit our own home industries in the same direction by increasing the disposition for such decorative articles, and at the same time it will put within the reach of our wealthy purchasers a variety of selection greater even than at present. We must be content for the present with the extraordinary progress there is being made at Trenton and other pottery centers in the United States and cater to the disposition of our people for this sensible craze.

In addition to the use of what may be considered the strictly ornamental in pottery, that which we have been considering, there is the equally artistic but more practical tile, that has become popular with those who wish to decorate and adorn their houses, and this tile is imported from England in large quantities. It is a branch of that industry assuming most extensive proportions.

The acceptance of artistic examples from foreign sources is not objectionable, it is the adoption and absorption of the worse features of foreign life and industries that bring a deserved

ridicule upon a limited class of Americans, the pariahs of the race. Some of the richest and most noticeable residences in our city have been decorated with designs from artists such as Sir Frederick Leighton or Burne Jones, and have been admired by those whose artistic judgment cannot be questioned. Such tribute to the ability of European designers is no more deserving and no more freely offered when the design is shown upon the walls or ceilings, than when it takes the direction of china or porcelain decoration.

We commend our representative to the English manufacturers whom he may find it possible to call upon in whatever line of business they may be engaged, at all in harmony with the purposes of our publication, and we trust they will extend such information to him as may serve to make his mission a pleasant and profitable one alike to them and to our readers.

We discover that by carelessness of the binder the colored plate was omitted from a number of our last issue. We wish that any subscriber or reader who has received a copy of the June issue without a colored plate, would send it to us and receive a perfect one in return.

THE brass Lectern, of which we gave an illustration in our June number, was designed by Messrs. GEO. W. SMITH & Co., the well known furniture firm of Philadelphia. It was manufactured by Messrs. J. B. Shannon & Sons.

A PERFORMANCE for the benefit of the widow of John Mazanovich, the scenic artist, is in contemplation and promises to be a great success. A large number of the best known actors and artists have offered to take an interest and an active part in the entertainment, and it will probably be one of the most complete and enjoyable affairs of the sort ever given in this city.

It gives us much pleasure to call attention to two valuable marbles, "Proserpine," by Hiram Powers, and "Agnus Dei," by Steinhausen, now on exhibition at Tiffany's, to be sold for the benefit of the Womans' Union Missionary Society. Such works of art as these are rarely offered to the public and we advise our readers to at least call and see them.

THE Art Students League has made many additions to its classes for the coming season and while retaining all of the instructors of last year, the corps has been enlarged and strengthened by the addition of Mr. H. Siddons Mowbray and others.

The Antique Class having increased so largely during the past season under the direction of Mr. J. Carroll Beckwith, has been arranged for the coming year in two classes, one a morning and one an afternoon class, these to be under his direction and that of his assistant, Mr. Frank Scott. The society also hopes during the coming year to start a class in modelling from the figure, for which form of study there is a growing demand.

THE house, of which illustration of Hall is shown on page 103, is situated in the suburbs of Des Moines, and cost about \$70,000 to build. The main hall, as shown, is 18 feet wide by 27.6 long. The interior finish of main and entrance halls is of oak, all plain surfaces and wainscoting being quartered. The floor is oak, walnut and mahogany. The side walls above wainscoting are covered with Lincrusta-Walton. The work around fireplace is of native sandstone of brick red color; the panels, pilasters, etc., are carved. The mantel is of oak. Above mantel the wall is covered with Lincrusta-Walton of special design. The back and sides of fireplace are of neatly designed metal work. The entrances from main to entrance hall and from main hall to living rooms have rich heavy portières.